APPLICATION GUIDE

TerraGen™ Gratti & Marmolino

Mineral decorative finishes · from substrate to full cure

EDITION 01.10.2026 USE WITH THE TDS OF GRATTI OR MARMOLINO, PRIMERS AND PROTECTIVE COATINGS

01 THE SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

Same system for both: **Gratti** has a fine 50 µm aggregate, **Marmolino** a pronounced 100 µm one. Build the finish in two coats of no more than 0.08–0.12 in each, work the surface as it starts to set, and let the lime harden as it absorbs CO_2 over 30 days.

01 PREPARE — Substrate — Sound, clean, dry. Prime per table 02.

→ **24 h** IF PRIMED

02 LEVELING COAT — Gratti / Marmolino — Trowel or roller, **max. 0.08–0.12 in**.

→ **24–48 h**

03 2ND COAT — Gratti / Marmolino — Even, to the required thickness.

→ **as it sets**

04 FINISH — Gratti: 4 · Marmolino: 8 — See step 7.

→ **7 d** IF SEALED

05 PROTECT — PU Water-Repellent — Optional. Exposed or wet areas.

→ **30 d**

06 CURE — Carbonation — No washing or scrubbing. **No rain for 4 days**.

02 WHAT TO DO ON EACH SUBSTRATE

SUBSTRATE	PREPARATION	PRIMER
Drywall / gypsum board	Joints finished and sanded; dust-free	Not needed
Spray-applied gypsum or perlite plaster, skim coats	Dry, sound, dust-free	Not needed
Lime or cement stucco	Cured; if very dry, dampen — never soak	Not needed
Well-adhered latex paint	Clean; check adhesion	Not needed
Friable or dusty mineral substrate	Brush down all loose material	**MinerGen**
Highly absorbent or low-porosity substrate	Skim with TerraGen Adhesive; let dry 24 h	**TerraGen Adhesive**
Non-porous: tile, glass, smooth panels	Clean and degreased	**Primer Contac**
Wall with salt migration	Dry-brush off salt crusts	**Neutralysalt Primer**
Different substrates meeting	Embed reinforcing mesh in the first coat	Mesh
Mold, algae or fungi	Clean thoroughly with a suitable product	Per substrate

Mask first: protect woodwork, glass and stone. Fix the cause of structural cracks, rising damp or leaks before finishing. For any substrate condition not covered here, contact the Technical Department.

03 COVERAGE AND WAIT TIMES PER COAT

COAT	PRODUCT	PREPARATION	COVERAGE / COAT	WAIT
PRIMER	**MinerGen**	Ready to use · 2–3 passes (1 h apart)	**530–650 ft²/gal**	24 h
	Primer Contac	Undiluted · 1 coat	**325–365 ft²/gal**	24 h
	TerraGen Adhesive	Ready to use · thin skim coat	**0.15–0.20 lb/ft² per mm**	24 h
	Neutralysalt Primer	Undiluted · 1–2 passes wet-on-wet	**1,020–1,220 ft²/gal**	24 h
LEVELING	**Gratti / Marmolino**	Ready to use · up to 10% water · max. 0.08–0.12 in	**0.61–1.54 lb/ft²**	24–48 h
2ND COAT	**Gratti / Marmolino**	Same mix · to the required thickness	**0.61–1.54 lb/ft²**	finish as it sets
PROTECT	**TerraGen PU Water-Repellent**	2 coats · exposed or wet areas	**0.7–1.0 oz/ft²**	6–24 h

Times at 77 °F and 60% RH; cold or humid conditions extend them. Coverage: 0.31–0.51 lb/ft² per mm of applied thickness (1.5–2.5 kg/m² per mm, Antonio León, 16.09.2026), without waste; the recommended total working thickness is 0.12–0.20 in (3–5 mm), 0.92–2.56 lb/ft². Example: a 100 ft² feature wall in two 2 mm coats ≈ 120–205 lb, three to five 44 lb pails. Test on site. Painting over: at least 4 days. Water-Repellent: only once fully cured, minimum 7 days.

04 STEP BY STEP

1. **Check the substrate:** sound, dry, clean, free of dust, salts and defects. Do not soak it; dampen only if very dry. Mask woodwork, glass and stone.
2. **Wear gloves and safety goggles:** the product contains lime (pH > 11) and is corrosive to skin and eyes. Rinse splashes off with water.
3. **Prime** where table 02 says so, and embed mesh where different substrates meet. **WAIT 24 H**
4. **Prepare the paste:** it comes ready to use. If needed, add up to 10% clean water and mix to a smooth, creamy paste; with a drill mixer, no more than 5 minutes. Do not mix with other products.
5. **Leveling coat:** by trowel or roller, evenly, max. 0.08–0.12 in; do not exceed 0.08–0.12 in per day. **WAIT 24–48 H**
6. **Second coat** evenly, until the required thickness is reached. In heat or wind, dampen the substrate first and mist the mortar for 48 h.
7. **Finish as it starts to set. Gratti: scraped** – screed level and scrape back with a nail float or scraper, then brush off loose particles once dry; **floated** – work with a wood or plastic float; **burnished** – go over the floated finish with a damp sponge float; **smooth** – close the burnished finish with a stainless-steel trowel. **Marmolino:** its eight finishes, with tool, thickness and method in its TDS; over 0.08–0.12 in (2–3 mm), in two coats.
8. **Let it cure:** no rain for 4 days; do not wet it to set – it hardens by absorbing CO_2. Protect exposed or wet areas with TerraGen PU Water-Repellent after 7 days. No washing or scrubbing for 30 days.

05 CONDITIONS & TOOLS

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Air and surface temperature **46 °F to 86 °F**
- No direct sun or sun-heated substrates
- Heat or wind: dampen first, mist for **48 h**
- Times given at **77 °F and 60% RH**

TOOLS

- Drill mixer · aluminum straightedge
- Trowel or roller to apply
- Nail float or scraper · wood or plastic float · sponge float · stainless-steel trowel
- Clean tools with **warm water** right after use

06 COMMON MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Cracking as it dries
Coats too thick or forced drying (sun, wind, heat). Max. 0.08–0.12 in per coat and per day; mist for 48 h in heat.

Weak or sandy surface
Too much water in the mix. Never more than 10%.

Finish won't take the texture
Worked too early or too late. Scrape or float as the mortar begins to set, not when it is fresh or dry.

Cracks where materials meet
No reinforcing mesh between different substrates. Embed it in the first coat.

Poor adhesion or peeling
Dust, a friable substrate or a smooth, non-porous surface without a bonding bridge. See table 02.

White bloom or patchy tone
Salts, rain or damp during curing. Treat salts first with Neutralysalt Primer and keep the finish dry for 4 days.

07 AFTER APPLICATION

- **Cleaning:** not before 30 days; then a damp sponge only. No abrasives, bleach, acids or solvents on unsealed surfaces
- **Touch-ups:** same batch and the same finishing tool, working the whole section corner to corner. Keep leftover product sealed, frost-free and out of the sun: 18-month shelf life
- **Exposed or wet areas:** TerraGen PU Water-Repellent, recoated when worn; it reduces the breathability of the finish

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